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Statement by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission configuration on the Central African Republic

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On behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission's configuration on the Central African Republic, I warmly welcome the outcome of the inclusive political dialogue, which took place in Bangui from 8 to 20 December 2008, paving the way for an end to conflict and recurring instability in the Central African Republic, through national reconciliation and reconstruction with the assistance of the international community. The Cabinet reshuffle, following the recommendation of a new Government gathering the entities participating in the dialogue, and the agreement on an independent electoral commission to prepare the 2010 elections are very encouraging signs of the willingness of all stakeholders to work towards a peaceful and prosperous Central African Republic. The new Government must maintain the momentum gained by the dialogue.

In the context of the agreement of the Central African Republic with the Peacebuilding Commission, we have strongly emphasized that it is important for the country to initiate a process of national reconciliation. I extend my congratulations to President François Bozizé and to the leaders of the different groups participating in the inclusive political dialogue, and I reaffirm the commitment of the Peacebuilding Commission to assist national authorities in their efforts to sustain national reconciliation.

I commend President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon for his leadership in bringing the parties together and making the inclusive political dialogue happen. I congratulate former President Pierre Buyoya of Burundi on his tactful yet firm guidance of the deliberations during the dialogue. I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador François Lonsény Fall, for his sustained efforts to help restore peace and stability in the Central African Republic.

At this critical juncture, the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission plans to assist the authorities in swiftly implementing the recommendations of the inclusive political dialogue and to work hard with the Central African Government and other stakeholders to draft a strategic framework

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for peacebuilding in the Central African Republic through an inclusive process. The momentum created by the positive outcome of the dialogue should not be lost. The Central African Republic deserves a chance for real recovery and sustainable development, which require adequate support from the international community and enhanced private sector investment.